



For Release: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

16-1010-ATL

SOUTHEAST INFORMATION OFFICE: Atlanta, Ga.

Technical information: (404) 893-4222 BLSInfoAtlanta@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southeast

Media contact: (404) 893-4220

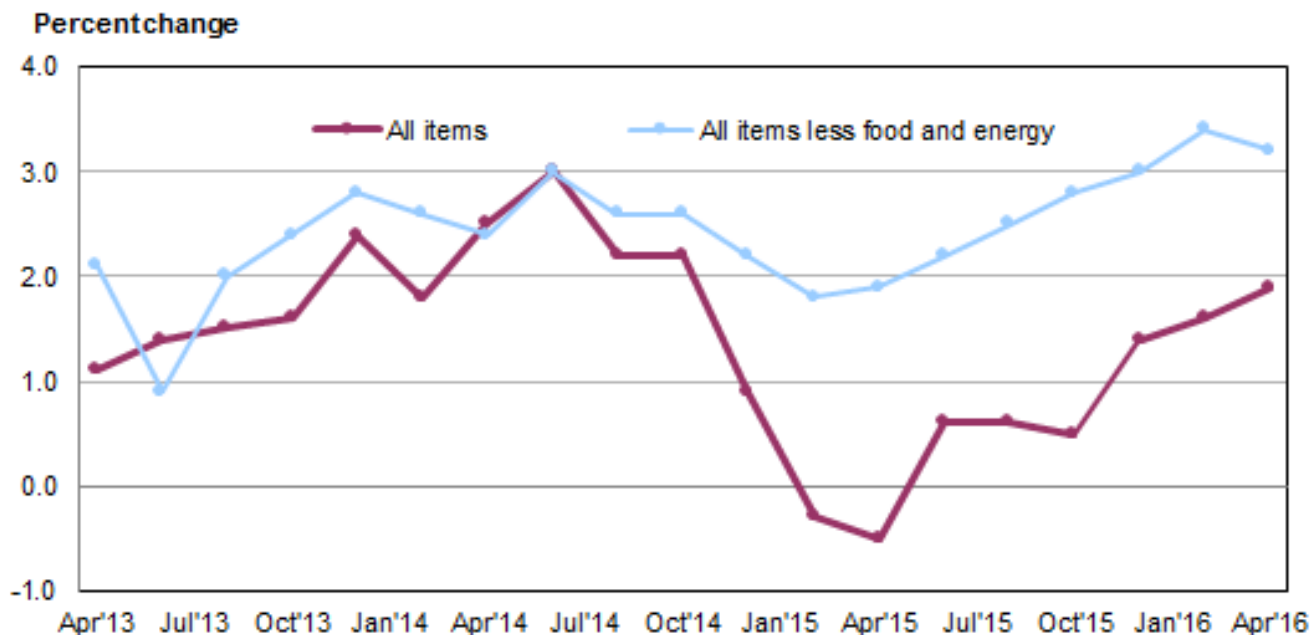
Consumer Price Index, Atlanta – April 2016

Area prices up 1.0 percent over the two months and 1.9 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Atlanta rose 1.0 percent over the March-April pricing period, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index advanced 10.6 percent and the all items less food and energy index rose 0.4 percent over the two months. The food index declined 0.4 percent during the March-April pricing period. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U increased 1.9 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.2 percent over the year as several indexes registered increases, most notably shelter. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Atlanta, April 2013–April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices declined 0.4 percent during the March-April pricing period as food at home prices declined 0.7 percent. Prices for food away from home were unchanged over the two months.

Over the year, the food index decreased 0.8 percent, led by a 1.9-percent price decline in the food at home index. Prices for food away from home increased 0.9 percent since April 2015.

Energy

The energy index advanced 10.6 percent over the two-month pricing period, led by a 25.7-percent increase in motor fuel prices. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity declined over the March-April pricing period, down 1.1 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 4.8 percent, reflecting a 8.6-percent drop in motor fuel prices. Since April 2015, prices declined 2.9 percent for utility (piped) gas service and 0.8 percent for electricity.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent during the March-April pricing period as increases were recorded for shelter (0.5 percent), and medical care (1.9 percent).

From April 2015 to April 2016, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.2 percent, led by increases in several indexes, most notably shelter (4.1 percent). Other indexes noting increases included medical care (6.0 percent), apparel (8.9 percent), and other goods and services (7.0 percent).

Table A. Atlanta CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	1.0	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.3	1.8	0.0	-0.3	0.3	1.6
April	1.1	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.8	2.5	0.7	-0.5	1.0	1.9
June	0.6	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.5	3.0	2.5	0.6		
August	0.6	1.5	0.7	1.5	-0.1	2.2	-0.1	0.6		
October	-1.2	1.8	-1.0	1.6	-1.1	2.2	-1.2	0.5		
December	-0.9	1.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.5	0.9	-0.6	1.4		

The Consumer Price Index for May 2016 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 16, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Atlanta, Ga.** metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties in Georgia.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	221.658	-	223.820	1.9	1.0	-
All items (1967=100)	668.452	-	674.972	-	-	-
Food and beverages	250.126	-	249.194	-0.6	-0.4	-
Food	260.978	-	259.897	-0.8	-0.4	-
Food at home	249.731	248.250	247.896	-1.9	-0.7	-0.1
Food away from home.....	279.820	-	279.854	0.9	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	153.264	-	153.669	1.4	0.3	-
Housing	218.894	-	219.688	2.5	0.4	-
Shelter	238.867	239.406	240.164	4.1	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	242.253	243.594	244.679	5.1	1.0	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	233.252	233.260	233.920	3.7	0.3	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	233.252	233.260	233.920	3.7	0.3	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	272.464	-	271.664	-1.0	-0.3	-
Household energy	231.112	229.957	230.216	-1.2	-0.4	0.1
Energy Services ⁽¹⁾	229.827	228.610	229.117	-1.2	-0.3	0.2
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	205.439	205.320	205.320	-0.8	-0.1	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	243.863	238.942	241.180	-2.9	-1.1	0.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	119.202	-	118.670	-6.5	-0.4	-
Apparel.....	144.845	-	142.542	8.9	-1.6	-
Transportation	177.999	-	188.003	-0.7	5.6	-
Private transportation	176.090	-	186.568	-1.2	6.0	-
Motor fuel	150.260	171.279	188.876	-8.6	25.7	10.3
Gasoline (all types).....	149.161	170.268	187.915	-8.4	26.0	10.4
Unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	145.257	166.400	183.966	-8.9	26.6	10.6
Unleaded midgrade ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾	189.572	212.926	233.679	-6.3	23.3	9.7
Unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	169.347	188.128	204.730	-4.3	20.9	8.8
Medical Care	425.095	-	433.278	6.0	1.9	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	86.938	-	86.443	-0.9	-0.6	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	135.758	-	134.955	1.5	-0.6	-
Other goods and services	364.104	-	364.916	7.0	0.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All Items.....	221.658	-	223.820	1.9	1.0	-
Commodities	171.551	-	175.521	-0.5	2.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	136.608	-	142.596	-0.1	4.4	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	162.342	-	173.482	0.6	6.9	-
Durables	109.720	-	110.516	-1.4	0.7	-
Services.....	268.994	-	269.614	3.2	0.2	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	210.844	-	212.718	1.6	0.9	-
All items less shelter.....	218.609	-	221.223	0.8	1.2	-
Commodities less food	136.894	-	142.638	-0.1	4.2	-
Nondurables	200.775	-	206.364	-0.2	2.8	-
Nondurables less food.....	160.559	-	170.794	0.6	6.4	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	318.958	-	318.605	2.1	-0.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	252.305	-	252.948	3.1	0.3	-
Energy	172.029	181.627	190.192	-4.8	10.6	4.7
All items less energy	226.626	-	227.188	2.6	0.2	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Atlanta, GA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
All items less food and energy	221.630	-	222.453	3.2	0.4	-

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.